



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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July 12, 2002

Mark Romey  
Staff Officer of Operations  
US Forest Service  
Kootenai National Forest Supervisor's Office  
1101 US Highway #2 West  
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. Romey,

I am writing to you call your personal attention to and commend the support provided by: Steve Johnson, Patty Kern, and Dave Deevy (USFS, Retired) during EPA's recent implementation of Lake Bottom Sediment Core Sampling Pilot Study. The pilot study, designed to evaluate the viability of using lake sediments to estimate levels of asbestos fibers transported by air deposition during mining activities, was greatly enhanced with Steve's, Patty's, and Dave's efforts.

Steve Johnson was very responsive to our initial calls for a local expert and was immensely helpful in identifying candidate sampling locations designed to meet our project goals. In addition when it became clear he would be pulled away from Libby to help National fire restoration efforts, he contacted Dave Deevy to determine if he would be willing to volunteer in our sampling program.

Patty Kern assisted me in reviewing a variety of historical areal photos of Libby and the surrounding area. These photos were key in determining which lakes and wetlands remained relatively undisturbed for the majority of the past century. In fact, we selected an alternate sampling location as a result of this review step.

Finally, Dave Deevy's services were invaluable during selection and sampling of the sediment cores. Dave's knowledge and experience in the surrounding Libby area are incomparable. His enthusiasm about the project and efforts to meet our goals is commendable. It was my distinct privilege to have him involved.

Please share my appreciation with Steve, Patty, and Dave.

Sincerely,

Mary Goldade, M.S.  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8  
Regional Superfund Chemist

cc: Steve Johnson (USFS)  
Patty Kern (USFS)  
Dave Deevy (Libby, MT)  
Jim Christiansen (EPA, 8EPR-SR)  
Jim Luey (EPA, 8EPR-PS)  
Jim Webber (NY State Health Department)

